Americans !---Liberty or Death !---Join or Die !

THE Massachusetts Spy

Or, American ORACLE of Liberty.

VOL. WORCESTER, WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 1775. (NUMB. 219.

To the PUBLIC.

THE good People of this County, at a Meeting some Time since, voted to encourage the Establishment of a Printing-Office in this Place: In Consequence thereof, Application was made to me, then in Boston, to issue Proposals for publishing a weekly NEWS-PAPER in this Town, to be entitled, The WORCESTER GAZETTE, or AMERICAN ORACLE of LIBERTY: This I accordingly did; since that Time, Things have worn a different Face in our distressed Capital, and it was thought highly necessary that I should remove my Printing Materials from Boston to this Place, and instead of publishing the intended WORCESTER GAZETTE, &c. continue the Publication of the well-known MASSACHUSETTS SPY, or THOMAS's BOSTON JOURNAL: I accordingly removed my Printing Utensils to this Place, and escaped myself from Boston on the memorable 19th of April, 1775, which will be remembered in future as the Anniversary of the BATTLE of LEXINGTON! I intend publishing this Paper regularly every Wednesday, and have made an Alteration in the Title, in order to take in Part of that intended for the Gazette.

I beg the Assistance of all the Friends to our righteous Cause to circulate this Paper.—They may rely that the utmost of my poor Endeavours shall be used to maintain those rights and Privileges for which we and *our Fathers have bled*! and that all possible Care will be taken to procure the most interesting and authentic Intelligence.

I am the Public's most obedient Servant,

ISAIAH THOMAS.

Worcester, May 2d, 1775.

PROPOSALS

For continuing the Publication of

The MASSACHUSETTS SPY,

OR,

American ORACLE of LIBERTY.

CONDITIONS.

I. The MASSACHUSETTS SPY, or AMERICAN ORACLE of LIBERTY, shall be printed on good paper, manufactured in this province, with a neat type.

II. It shall contain four pages, large folio, of the same size of the Boston news-papers.

III. To be published every WEDNESDAY Morning, as early as possible, and delivered to the Subscribers in Worcester, at their houses, and sent by the first opportunity to such as are at a greater distance.

IV. Every subscriber to pay Three Shillings and Four Pence, Lawful Money, at the time of subscribing, and Three Shillings and Four Pence more at the expiration of Twelve Months. The price being Six Shillings and Eight Pence *per annum*, the same as the Boston news-papers.

VI. Advertisements to be inserted in a neat and conspicuous manner at the lowest rate.

SUBSCRIPTIONS are taken in by the Publisher in *Worcester*, and by the following Gentlemen, viz. Capt. Asa Whitcomb, and Dr. William Dunsmore, *Lancaster*; Dr. William Jennison, *Mendon*; Jedediah Foster, Esq; *Brookfield*; Col. Learned, *Oxford*; Capt. Jonathan Tucker, *Charlton*; Capt. Henry King, and Mr. Amos Singleterry, *Sutton*; Col. Joshua Henshaw, and Mr. J. Allen, *Leicester*; Mr. Jonas How, *Rutland*; Mr. John Mason, *Hutchinson*; Capt. Isaac Stone, *Oakham*; Mr. Levi Brigham, *Northborough*; Capt. Stephen Maynard, *Westborough*; Hon. Artemas Ward, *Shrewsbury*, Dr. John Taylor, *Lunenburgh*; Capt. David Goodridge, *Fitchburgh*; Mr. Benjamin Green, *Uxbridge*; Capt. Samuel Baker, *Bolton*; Col. Jonathan Grout, *Petersham*; Capt. Josiah Fay, *Southborough*; Col. Paul Mendall, *Hardwich*; Simeon Dwight, Esq; *Western*; Capt. Timothy Newell. *Sturbridge*; Mr Israel Nichols, *Leominster*; Mr. Abiel Sadler, *Upton*; Capt. James Woods, *New-Braintree*; Mr. John Child, *Holden*; Capt. Samuel Jennison, *Douglass*; Mr. John Sherman, *Grafton*; Mr. Naham Green, *Royalston*; Mr. Nathan Wood, *Westminster*; Mr. Jonathan Baldwin, *Templeton*; Mr. William Bigelow, *Athol*; Mr. Samuel Easterbrook, *Princetown*; (all in Worcester County) and by many other Gentlemen in several parts of the province.

For the MASSACHUSETTS SPY.

NUMBER VIII.

To the INHABITANTS *of the* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY.

(Continued from our last.)

My Friends and Fellow-Countrymen,

AFTER making some observations which are nothing to the purpose, unless the colonies are annexed to the realm, which is not the case, nor ever will be, and if they were, it would not follow if Guernsey and Jersey are enslaved, that the Americans must be so too—A clause from our first charter too long to be repeated, respecting incorporation, is recited by our author; upon which he gravely asks this simple question, "Whether it looks like a distinct or independent state?" We may fully answer him by another question equally simple, viz. Is there a single word in it that looks like uniting us to the British empire, or subjecting us to the authority of Parliament? If it has not this look, it does not look to the point: For it is demonstration, as there was a time when the colonies were disunited from the realm, and the supreme authority of the parent state, that they are so now unless there is evidence of a subsequent connexion. It is to be wished that those who keep eternally harping upon our being annexed to the British realm would point out the process that united us.—There is none in nature: I challenge them to produce any.

The two next adduced paragraphs from our first charter, we have examined in our third and fourth numbers, and have shewn the first exactly to correspond with the rights we contend for, and the latter to be absolutely inconsistent with, and repungnant to, every principle and idea of our being a part of the British empire and subject to its sovereign power.—It is therefore unnecessary to take them up in this place.

The last recited clause from this charter, we have also considered, the substance of which is, that all and every of the subjects of the King of England, his heirs and successors, who should go to and inhabit in the Massachusetts colony, and all their children, born in the said colony, or on the seas should *have and enjoy all the liberties and immunities of free and natural born subjects* within any of the dominions of the King, his heirs and successors to *all intents* and *purposes* whatsoever, as if they were, and every of them, born within the realm.

"It is upon this clause, or a similar one in the charter of William and Mary that our patriots have built up the stupendous fabric of American independence." Be it so: The foundation were there no other would sustain the building. It is impossible to undermine it or explain it away.

"I have already, says our writer, shewn that the supposition of our being exempted from the authority of Parliament, is pregnant with the grossest absurdities."—No mortal excepting himself has ever been able to see those absurdities We have seen what such empty pretensions amounted to in a past paper, and to whom the absurdities were imputable.——"Let us now, says he, consider this clause in connexion with other parts of the charter."—Here we are led to expect some important reasoning; however, a recital of his argument is its best confutation. "If, says he, we suppose this clause to exempt us from the authority of Parliament, we must throw away all the rest of the charter, *for every other part indicates the contrary as plainly as words can do.*" This is considering the clause in connexion with other parts. There is no end in contradicting the mere assertions of one who *lets his pen run so freely*. Read the charter, and see if any part indicates the contrary, unless profound silence upon the subject is taken for such an indication.

"What is still worse, this clause becomes *felo de se*, and destroys itself; for if we are not annexed to the realm we are aliens, and no charter, grant, or other act of the crown can naturalize us, or entitle us to the liberties and immunities of Englishmen." This is begging the question; it goes upon the old Jacobitish supposition deteriorated: It supposes, that within the realm the subject holds all his rights and liberties of the King, as the original possessor; and that persons out of the realm, in a state of nature possess no rights and liberties as men.—In short, it supposes Great-Britain to be the grand and only store-house of Freedom, the dispensor of civil Blessings, and that no part of the wide world can be entitled to any liberties or immunities but what she, of her special grace and mere bounty, is pleased to grant them; whereas the truth is, we were entitled to all the rights of Englishmen independent of any charters or realms under Heaven, and surely we are not the less so for having them confirmed by compact.

We shall wave what might be offered respecting aliens allegiance to the King, and the relation that Wales, Jersey, Guernsey and Ireland stand in to the realm of England, as they do not effect the solution of our present question.

More distortions, windings and twistings, were never crowded into so small a compass as in the paragraph we are now considering.—The following is diverting enough: "If a person born in England removes to Ireland, Jersey, or Guernsey, and settles there, he is then no longer represented in the British Parliament, but he and his posterity are, and will ever be, subject to its authority. So that the inhabitants of the American colonies, do in fact enjoy all the liberties and immunities of natural born subjects. We are entitled to no greater privileges than those who are born within the realm: And they can enjoy no other than we do when they reside out of it. Thus it is evident that this clause amounts to no more than the royal assurance that we are a part of the British empire, and natural born subjects, and as such bound to obey the supreme power of the state." Such a concatenation of ideas we never jumbled up together before. The clause grants to all persons, who were born within the realm, and should come and inhabit in this province from time to time, as well as to all their children born on the seas, or in this colony, all the liberties and immunities of free natural born subjects within any of the King's dominions to all intents and purposes whatsoever, as if they were born within the realm of England. The language of this clause then, according to our mysterious interpreter, to all those who come from England here, would be this, viz. You who are born within the realm of England, and shall go and inhabit in the Massachusetts colony shall have and enjoy all the liberties and immunities that those have and enjoy who are born within the realm of England, and shall go and inhabit in America. As great a solecism as ever entered the head of man. If the accidental liberties that those persons enjoy, who are only born within the realm and remove to foreign parts, are to measure and point out ours, how shall we ever know them. Is Ireland, Guernsey, the East and West-Indias, or Turkey, to decide the question and define the rights of all America: For those born in England have gone to, and enjoy different liberties in all these places: And, according to our Logician, if the Americans enjoy as much liberty as those who were born in England enjoy in any of those dominions, even if it be in Turkey, we are entitled to no more.